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clothes, and that a covered walk be built from the detention barracks to the sheds, this walk being necessary to protect the aliens in rainy and inclement weather when walking to and from the barracks and shed.

EDITORIAL NOTE.—The medical officer in charge of the hospital has reported recently that no case of cerebrospinal meningitis occurred during the month following the institution of remedial measures.

WORLD-WIDE PREVALENCE OF ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

The following data are taken from the published report of the Session Extraordinaire d'Avril 1920 du Comité Permanent de l'Office International d'Hygiène Publique, Paris, 1920. The information was furnished by the delegates from the different countries, and any hypotheses or conclusions stated here were made by the delegates.

The disease seems to be world wide. Announced in Austria by von Economo at the beginning of 1917, it reached France and England in the spring of 1918, and Italy the following winter. It appeared in Portugal in February, 1919, in India in November, and in Spain in the early part of 1920. It appeared in the United States toward the end of 1918, on the Atlantic coast, and on the Pacific coast in October, 1919. It has also reached Uruguay, South America, and was present in Australia in March, 1919.

Argentina.—Up to May, 1919, no case had been reported in Argentina. The delegate stated that he had no information relative to the disease since that time, but that it was not present during the epidemic of influenza.

Belgium.—In 1919 a small epidemic appeared in three communes of western Flanders, which disappeared during the summer. During the early part of 1920, cases were again reported in about 20 villages scattered throughout the same territory.

Denmark.—From July, 1919, to April, 1920, 58 cases, with 13 deaths, were reported as follows:

Cases by months.

Month.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1919.			
July.....	0	1	1
August.....	1	2	3
September.....	0	0	0
October.....	0	0	0
November.....	3	2	5
December.....	5	4	9
1920.			
January.....	14	6	20
February.....	6	2	8
March.....	5	6	11
April (up to Apr. 10).....	1	0	1
Total.....	35	23	58

Cases by age groups.

Age group.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 5.....	1	1	2
5 to 15.....	5	1	6
15 to 25.....	8	7	15
25 to 35.....	7	4	11
35 to 45.....	5	1	6
45 to 55.....	4	6	10
55 to 65.....	3	0	3
65 to 75.....	1	0	1
Between 15 and 65 (indefinite).....	1	3	4
Total.....	35	23	58

Cases by provinces.

Province.	Urban.		Rural.		Total.	
	Population.	Cases.	Population.	Cases.	Population.	Cases.
Copenhagen.....	641,000	8	.....	.....	641,000	8
Seeland.....	118,700	1	483,800	4	602,500	5
Bornholm.....	18,850	1	25,500	.....	44,350	1
Laaland-Falster.....	34,950	1	90,500	1	125,450	2
Fionie.....	97,500	4	220,300	11	317,800	15
Jutland.....	362,500	10	923,500	17	1,286,000	27
Total.....	1,273,500	25	1,743,600	33	3,017,100	58

England.—In 1919, 535 cases were reported in England and Wales. Up to April 10, 1920, 202 cases were reported. Occurrence in England indicates that it is a seasonal disease, the largest number of cases occurring in winter. Most of the cases were under 35 years of age. Rarely did several cases occur in the same household.

Encephalitis lethargica has been a notifiable disease in England and Wales since January 1, 1919.

France.—At the end of 1918 Netter drew attention to the occurrence of encephalitis lethargica in France. Since that time, notably during the winter of 1919–20, the number of cases has continued to increase. The French delegate, Dr. Péan, stated that “it was not (and with sufficient reason) placed in the category of notifiable diseases.” However, February 7, 1920, the Minister of Hygiene addressed a circular to all prefects of France requesting the following information on cases occurring in the different Departments:

- (1) Communicability of the disease.
- (2) Its relation to influenza.
- (3) Its relation to poliomyelitis.

In two months (up to early in April) 321 cases with 100 deaths—a case fatality rate of about 30 per cent—were reported from 50 Departments.

In no locality was there an appearance of an epidemic. The largest number of cases occurred in Departments which had the

densest population: Seine, 82; Nord, 22; Doubs, 18; Bouches-du-Rhône, 9. The distribution was quite uniform.

There was no report of the contraction of the disease by direct contact. The cases were isolated ones and seemed to appear simultaneously. Most physicians refused to consider the question of contagion.

Children and adults were attacked in the ratio of 1 to 2, deaths occurring in the same proportion. Only 5 of the 321 cases were past 60 years of age.

Italy.—Sporadic cases were registered in Italy in 1918, and in 1919–20 a considerable number of cases occurred. In studying the disease, the Director General of Health followed two principal courses:

(1) Instituted laboratory research.

(2) Made an epidemiological study by means of a questionnaire sent to the provincial sanitary officers.

The results of the experimental work were principally negative, whereas much information was obtained from the epidemiological study. According to information received from the questionnaires from 49 provinces and about 1,000 communes, 3,960 cases were reported, with 1,013 deaths (period covered not stated), a case fatality rate of 25.6. The maximum occurrence of the disease was at the beginning of the year 1920. The greatest number of cases was reported from central and north Italy, the south remaining almost entirely free. It seems that the maritime climate confers a certain immunity.

Norway.—Encephalitis lethargica was first observed in Norway in 1919. One case was noted in each of the months of January, February, and March of that year. From October to December of the same year 18 cases were reported, and from January to March, 1920, 10 cases—a total for the period of 31 cases, with 7 deaths.

The distribution of cases was as follows: Christiania, 22; Seljord, 1; Horh, 1; Hammerfest, 1; scattering along coast, 6. There was no connection between the cases, each case appearing isolated.

Notification is obligatory in Christiania.

Peru.—Three cases were reported in 1919.

Poland.—Cases of encephalitis lethargica were reported in February, 1920, when the Minister of Health made notification of the disease compulsory.

Portugal.—In July, 1918, the attention of the physicians of Portugal was called to the occurrence of encephalitis lethargica, and a general review of the studies of the disease was published. In March, 1919, a case was reported in Lisbon. Later two more cases were reported, and up to early April, 7 cases had been reported in Lisbon. Two patients were children, 4 or 5 years of age, one was about 15 years

old, and 4 were adults. Two deaths occurred in the adults; the other cases recovered.

Characteristic cases were also reported from Ponta Delgada, Azores, and two at Oporto, toward the end of the year 1919. During the early part of 1920 two additional cases were reported in Portugal, one each from Beja and Portalegre.

Tunis.—Two suspect cases and one confirmed case were reported from Tunis.

United States.—Encephalitis lethargica appeared in the United States during the fall of 1918, the first case occurring in New York in September of that year. Then, for the whole country, there were in October 3 cases; November, 7; December, 10; January (1919), 19; February, 35; March, 61; April, 12; May, 5; June, none. In all, 222 cases had been reported to the United States Public Health Service. Following investigation, 39 of these cases were eliminated.

The chairman of the meeting, Dr. Velghe, Director General of the Administration of Hygiene of Belgium, stated that although lethargy was usually mentioned as a characteristic symptom of the disease, it was absent in some cases, and for this reason the Academy of Medicine of France had proposed to change the name.

Dr. Netter called attention to the reappearance of encephalitis lethargica, which took on epidemic form in France early in January, 1920, and its existence throughout the entire world.¹ He stated that although notification was not compulsory, he had estimated that there were about 1,500 cases in Paris and probably 10,000 cases throughout all France; and he believed that both Italy and Austria had as many cases as France. The mortality rate was difficult to establish because of the different clinical aspects of the disease, the difficulties in diagnosing it, and the different forms, some abortive cases, some light, some ambulatory.

The data in the accompanying table, excepting the figures for the United States, were taken from the Weekly Record of Infectious Diseases at Ports, etc. (British Ministry of Health), January 28, 1920, to February 16, 1921. The figures for the United States represent the number of cases that have been reported to the United States Public Health Service.

The disease is not reportable in most of the countries and in but few cities and States of the United States, and the figures here given are, in most instances at least, fragmentary and a bare minimum. Reporting is obligatory in England and Wales, Christiania, Norway, Poland, and Zurich; Switzerland.

¹ Bulletin de L'Académie de Médecine, vol. 43, No. 13, Apr. 5, 1920.

Encephalitis lethargica.

Country.	1920												1921	
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Algeria.....			1	1	1	1		2						
Argentina.....						4								
Austria.....		2		2	2	4				1 1	1 1			
Belgium.....	2	1	1	1	1				4	2	1	4	(?)	
Brazil.....								4	1	1	2			
Canada ¹	32													
Chile.....								1						
Czechoslovakia.....											5		2	
Denmark.....	22	8		11		1	25	4	13	4	4			
England and Wales.....	115	452	56	421	68	573	559	435	531	51	42	114	454	4220
Finland ²														
France ³	70	206	144	44	5	1			1				7	
Germany.....		18			12	5	2			1	2			
Holland.....				4										
Ireland.....						1			1 1					1
Italy.....	96	403	87	27		19	2	5	2			1	3	
Luxemburg.....		4												
Malta.....				1			2							
Mexico.....	2													
Morocco.....			3									1 1		
New Zealand.....		4				2		8						
Portugal.....							5	1		1				1
Norway ⁴	12	3				2	1 1		1		1		13	4
Scotland ⁵			1											
Sicily.....		12	21	1										
Spain.....				3	1 1									
Sweden.....							13	2		6	34	75	222	
Switzerland.....	46	211	178	57	24	45	53	53	55		7	5	26	
Tasmania.....							1							
United States.....	174	220	205	155	102	69	73	49	47	28	29	48	220	463
Uruguay ¹⁰														

¹ Deaths.² Outbreak in Liege and Hainault Provinces.³ November and December, 1919: Cases, 78; deaths, 20.⁴ Two weeks missing.⁵ One week missing.⁶ To Dec. 22, 1920: Cases, 60; deaths, 6. To Jan. 4, 1921: Cases, 107. Jan. 5-15: Cases, 42; deaths, 2.⁷ From International Office of Public Hygiene.⁸ Christiania.⁹ Quarter ended Sept. 30, 1920: Deaths, 18.¹⁰ October, 1920, prevalent.

OCCURRENCE IN NEW YORK CITY, 1919 AND 1920.

The following figures for New York City were taken from the Weekly Bulletin of the Department of Health of the City of New York, March 19, 1921:

Cases and deaths, by months, 1919 and 1920.

Month.	1919		1920	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
January.....	5	.....	36	12
February.....	16	.....	149	50
March.....	25	9	116	52
April.....	10	1	66	16
May.....	16	5	42	22
June.....	4	1	20	12
July.....	2	1	39	9
August.....	1	.....	28	11
September.....	8	5	22	6
October.....	23	7	11	3
November.....	9	3	12	9
December.....	9	1	24	9
Total.....	128	33	565	211

NOTE.—The cases for New York City for January and February, 1921, as reported to the United States Public Health Service by the New York State Department of Health were: January, 61; February, 195.

Cases and deaths, by age groups and sex, 1920.

Age group (years).	Cases.			Deaths.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 5.....	23	24	47	10	8	18
5 to 9.....	26	14	40	10	2	12
10 to 14.....	32	18	50	6	5	11
15 to 19.....	23	24	47	5	5	10
20 to 24.....	37	34	71	13	11	24
25 to 29.....	29	27	56	11	14	25
30 to 34.....	35	18	53	8	8	16
35 to 39.....	30	18	48	14	11	25
40 to 44.....	19	14	33	7	10	17
45 to 49.....	24	16	40	13	7	20
50 to 54.....	15	8	23	8	3	11
55 to 59.....	8	3	11	6	1	7
60 to 64.....	7	7	14	3	5	8
65 to 69.....	4	4	8	2	1	3
70 to 74.....	3	2	5	2	1	3
75 to 79.....	.....	1	1	.....	1	1
80 to 84.....	1	1	2	.....	.....	.....
85 and over.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	316	233	549	118	93	211

DEATHS DURING WEEK ENDED MAR. 12, 1921.

Summary of information received by telegraph from industrial insurance companies for week ended Mar. 12, 1921. (From the "Weekly Health Index," Mar. 15, 1921, issued by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.)

Policies in force.....	46, 177, 180
Number of death claims.....	9, 440
Death claims per 1,000 policies in force, annual rate.....	10. 7